

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S7089–S7201*

**Measures Introduced:** Fourteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3309–3322, S.J. Res. 45, and S. Res. 620–621. **Pages S7148–49**

**Measures Reported:**

S.J. Res. 41, approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003. **Page S7148**

**Measures Passed:**

*Commemorating the late Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut:* Senate agreed to S. Res. 621, honoring and commemorating the selfless acts of heroism displayed by the late Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police on July 24, 1998, and expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the professionalism and dedication of the United States Capitol Police. **Pages S7197**

*Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians Settlement Act:* Senate passed H.R. 4841, to approve, ratify, and confirm the settlement agreement entered into to resolve claims by the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians relating to alleged interferences with the water resources of the Tribe, to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to execute and perform the Settlement Agreement and related waivers, clearing the measure for the President. **Pages S7197–98**

**Measures Considered:**

**Stop Excessive Energy Speculation Act:** Senate began consideration of S. 3268, to amend the Commodity Exchange Act, to prevent excessive price speculation with respect to energy commodities, after agreeing to the motion to proceed to its consideration, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Page S7095–S7124, S7124–29**

**Pending:**

Reid Amendment No. 5098, to establish the enactment date. **Page S7129**

Reid Amendment No. 5099 (to Amendment No. 5098), to change the enactment date. **Pages S7129–30**

Reid Motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Agricultural, Nutrition, and Forestry with instructions to report back forthwith, with Reid Amendment No. 5100, to establish the effective date. **Page S7130**

Reid Amendment No. 5101 (to the instructions of the motion to commit), to change the enactment date. **Page S7130**

Reid Amendment No. 5102 (to Amendment No. 5101), to change the enactment date.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, after agreeing to the motion to proceed and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, July 25, 2008. **Page S7130**

**Warm in Winter and Cool in Summer Act:** Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3186, to provide funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. **Page S7131–40**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, after agreeing to the motion to proceed and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, July 25, 2008. **Page S7130**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, July 24, 2008, and that the time until 10:30 a.m. be equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees, and that the Majority control the first half of the time and the Republicans control the final half; provided further, that the time from 10:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. be equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees; and the time controlled in 30-minute alternating blocks of time, with the Majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the next 30 minutes. **Page S7190**

**House Messages:**

**Foreclosure Prevention Act:** Senate began consideration of the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to the amendments of the House to the amendment of the

Senate to H.R. 3221, to provide needed housing reform. **Page S7130**

Pending:

Senator Reid entered a motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to the amendments of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

**Pages S7130–31**

Senator Reid entered a motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to the amendments of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Amendment No. 5103, to establish the effective date.

**Page S7131**

Reid Amendment No. 5104 (to Amendment No. 5103), to change the enactment date. **Page S7131**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to the amendments of the House to the Senate amendment to the bill and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, July 25, 2008.

**Page S7131**

**Moment of Silence—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 3:40 p.m. on Thursday, July 24, 2008, that there be a moment of silence in remembrance of the late Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police.

**Page S7089**

**Message from the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Continuation of Emergency Regarding Export Control Regulations under the authority of Executive Order 13222 dated August 17, 2001; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–59)

**Page S7146**

**Removal of Injunction of Secrecy:** The injunction of secrecy was removed from the following treaty:

Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on Accession of Albania and Croatia (Treaty Doc. No. 110–20).

The treaty was transmitted to the Senate today, considered as having been read for the first time, and referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed.

**Page S7198**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Nelson M. Ford, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army.

Joseph A. Benkert, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Sean Joseph Stackley, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Frederick S. Celec, of Virginia, to be Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs.

4 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

11 Army nominations in the rank of general.

12 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

4 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy.

**Pages S7198–99, S7200–01**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Mark J. Gerencser, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the National Security Education Board for a term of four years.

David H. McIntyre, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Security Education Board for a term of four years.

Ambrose L. Schwallie, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2013.

Maria Cino, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2010.

Eric F. Melgren, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

Marco A. Hernandez, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

22 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army.

**Pages S7199–S7200**

**Nomination Withdrawn:** Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Carol Dillon Kissal, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration, which was sent to the Senate on February 25, 2008. **Page S7201**

**Messages from the House:**

**Pages S7146–47**

**Measures Referred:**

**Page S7147**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:**

**Page S7147**

**Executive Communications:**

**Page S7147**

**Petitions and Memorials:**

**Pages S7147–48**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages S7149–50**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Pages S7150–79**

**Additional Statements:**

**Pages S7145–46**

**Amendments Submitted:**

**Pages S7179–96**

**Notices of Hearings/Meetings:**

**Pages S7196**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:****Pages S7196–97****Privileges of the Floor:****Page S7197**

**Recess:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and recessed at 8:05 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 24, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7199.)

## *Committee Meetings*

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### **DEFENSE CONTRACTING IN IRAQ**

*Committee on Appropriations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the adequacy of defense contracting oversight for Operation Iraqi Freedom, after receiving testimony from Gordon England, Deputy Secretary, Gordon S. Heddell, Acting Inspector General, and General Benjamin S. Griffin, Commanding Officer, United States Army Materiel Command, all of the Department of Defense.

### **REDUCING GASOLINE DEMAND**

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the status of existing federal programs targeted at reducing gasoline demand, focusing on additional proposals for near-term gasoline demand reductions, after receiving testimony from Steven G. Chalk, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and David L. Greene, Corporate Fellow, Transportation Science and Energy Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, both of the Department of Energy; John A. Laitner, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), Washington, D.C.; Steve Winkelman, Center for Clean Air Policy, Port Chester, New York; and Edward R. Buiel, Axion Power International, Inc., New Castle, Pennsylvania.

### **MIDWEST FLOODS**

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the recent floods in the Midwestern United States, focusing on ways to determine what happened and how to improve managing risk and responses in the future, after receiving testimony from Senators Grassley, Durbin, and McCaskill; and John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, and Brigadier General Michael J. Walsh, Division Commander, Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, both of the Department of the Army, Department of Defense.

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on Finance:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following:

S.J. Res. 41, approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

### **NOMINATIONS**

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of James Christopher Swan, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti, Alan W. Eastham, Jr., of Arkansas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo, W. Stuart Symington, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda, who was introduced by Senators Klobuchar and McCaskill, and John A. Simon, of Maryland, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### **NOMINATIONS**

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Tatiana C. Gfoeller-Volkoff, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, Richard G. Olson, Jr., of New Mexico, to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, David D. Pearce, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Lebanon, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### **UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING**

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on International Operations and Organizations, Democracy and Human Rights concluded a hearing to examine United Nations peacekeeping operations, focusing on opportunities and challenges for the administration of the next president of the United States, after receiving testimony from Brian Hook, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs; Brett D. Schaefer, Heritage Foundation Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, and William J. Durch, Henry L. Stimson Center, both of Washington, D.C.; and Nancy Soderberg, University of North Florida, Jacksonville.

### **INFORMATION SHARING**

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine information sharing, including the actions that have been taken to guide the design and implementation of the Information Sharing Environment (ISE), and